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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

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"*And blessed are ye if ye have no disputations among you.*"
BOOK OF MORMON, 3 NEPHI 18: 34.

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THE WORTH OF SOULS*

ELDER RULON S. WELLS
OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF SEVENTY

I HAVE greatly rejoiced in the testimonies and instructions we have received from our brethren, and in the excellent music that has been rendered here in this session of conference. Surely our hearts have been filled, and we have rejoiced in the blessings of our Heavenly Father.

THE GLORY OF GOD

No greater work was ever undertaken than that of saving the souls of the children of men. No greater work has the Lord God of heaven ever undertaken than to save the souls of His children. It is the greatest undertaking that ever has been inaugurated. Even He who fashioned the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are, has no greater work than that of saving His own children. We find that in the revelations of God given to the Prophet Joseph, as recorded in the Pearl of Great Price. Indeed, it is the writing of Moses, translated by the gift and power of God through Joseph Smith the Prophet, wherein God says: "For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." We may look out upon this great universe in which we live; the planet on which we stand, the earth, is merely a little speck in that great universe; yet, God it is who made that universe. And this earth upon which we stand, with all of its wonderful mechanism, with the wonder-

*Address delivered at the second overflow meeting of the Ninety-seventh Annual Conference, in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3rd, 1927.

ful revolutions which it makes upon its own axis, once in twenty-four hours, giving us day and night, and then upon its orbit around the sun in its allotted time of three hundred and sixty-five days, five hours, forty-six minutes and forty-eight seconds, year in and year out with mathematical precision—what a wonderful thing it is! The other planets make similar revolutions in their allotted times. And then again we look farther out into the universe and see those glittering stars—each one, we are told by astronomers, is a blazing sun, having its own planetary system similar to the one of our own solar system. How marvelous is the work of God over all this universe!

GREATER THAN THE UNIVERSE

Is there anything greater than the making of a universe? Yes—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of God's children. The worlds have been created to become the habitations of the children of God. Shall they be of greater consequence than the children of God themselves? Oh, no! The great work of God is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of His children. And it has been written that though a man shall labour his whole life and save but one soul, great shall be his joy with that soul in the kingdom of our Father. These reflections ought to make us think seriously of this work of God, with which we are identified, and in which we should have our part, for He has invited us to have part with Him in that great and glorious work. Great shall be our joy, or, great shall be the joy of those men and women who go out into the world, who leave their homes, their fathers and their mothers, their wives and their children, and all that they love and hold dear, and go out and devote years of their time in helping our Heavenly Father to accomplish His great and glorious work of bringing His children to a knowledge of the truth, that they may have eternal life.

RESULTS

This Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has within it the power of God unto salvation. It is working upon those who have embraced it, who have received it, and the result is that this people are the best people on the face of all the earth. It is working in their lives; they are learning how to do something for their fellowmen; they are learning how to control themselves, and to become better men and better women day by day. And as we come from week to week to our sacramental meetings and partake of the emblems of our Lord's suffering, there, with clean hands and pure hearts, we are indeed eating and drinking eternal life into our souls. Why? Because in doing so we are keeping this commandment of God and bearing witness that we do always remember Christ, who gave His life as a ransom for all mankind.

But we must come to the table of the Lord in a repentant mood, full of faith, manifesting our faith in Him as the Saviour of the world, for there is no other name given under heaven whereby men and women can be saved.

I say that this Gospel is working. It is sanctifying and purifying our hearts. If we are living it, and practising the principles of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is sanctifying our hearts; it is making us better men and better women than we were, and we are growing in the knowledge of God and in good works day by day. That is the plan that the Almighty had, and He expects that His children will derive the benefit if they will only obey Him.

THE SOUL OF MAN

The saving of a human soul—what a great work it is, even though that soul be only your own. What a great and glorious work it is, if you only succeed in that!

What is a soul? You know there are a great many peculiar ideas in the world regarding what a soul is. Men have an idea that there is something fluttering around on the inside of this anatomy, and they call it a soul. Contrast their vague conception of that soul with the clear, concise definition that was given to the Prophet Joseph in that glorious revelation known to us as section 88, in the Doctrine and Covenants: "And the spirit and the body are the soul of man." Our spirits, which came from God, begotten of Him in the eternal worlds, and for which this world was created, and our bodies that we obtained in coming here, constitute our souls. The spirit, dwelling in this body, animating it, and making it alive, is a child of God.

REDEMPTION OF THE SOUL

There are many things to accomplish in bringing to pass the soul's immortality and its eternal life. Before it can ever enter into the presence of God it will have to be sanctified from all unrighteousness, for no unclean thing can enter there. And so we read in that same section of the Doctrine and Covenants: "And the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul." The spirit and this body, in conjunction, make a human soul. After a while they separate, and the spirit will go back to God, whence it came, and the body, the other part of that soul, will return to mother earth, whence it came, and that separation that takes place we call death, the natural death, the temporal death. But after a while it is to come and take up that body, this spirit is, and become immortal. By what power can that be done? By your own individual power? No. This same revelation explains by what power that shall be done, for it says: "And the redemption of the soul is through him that quickeneth all things"—through Him who created man in the very beginning,

the Creator of the heavens and the earth, who makes the grass to grow, who makes the birds to fly, the fish to swim, the beast to rove upon the fields—every living thing. Through Him who quickeneth all things, through Him shall be brought to pass this resurrection from the dead, which is the redemption of the soul. Redemption from what? From death and the grave. We read on: "Therefore, it must needs be sanctified from all unrighteousness"—Why?—"that it may be prepared for the celestial glory." That is what the revelation says. Hence the Gospel has been revealed that we might sanctify and purify our lives from all unrighteousness.

THE GOSPEL PURPOSE

That is what the Gospel is for, and it is working upon this community. We are not all perfect; we are a long way short of it, but it is working. It is making us better men and women than we were; we are growing in the knowledge of God and in good works day by day. Let us continue to advance and to grow. Let us lay hold on eternal life by keeping the commandments of God, by cleansing and purifying ourselves from all unrighteousness. That is what the Gospel teaches us, and that is what it is for.

Now we hear of the glad tidings that come from the mission field, how our boys and girls, our young men and women, who go out as missionaries, are placing splendid examples before the people in the world. What splendid news we hear of our young men and our young women everywhere throughout all the Missions of the world! And we also hear a good report of our young men and our young women here at home. They are the best, the cleanest, the purest men and women, boys and girls, that are to be found in all the world, freer from the contamination of the world, freer from those terrible diseases that afflict a wicked and a corrupt world. Let us continue to walk in the truth; let us continue to abide in that Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, for it will cleanse and purify us from all unrighteousness.

NONE ARE WITHOUT SIN

This is the work of a lifetime. Do not think that you are good enough just as you are, for, good as you are, and clean as you are, honest as you are, virtuous as you are, we can all improve, every one of us. Let us grow in the knowledge of God and in good works. Let us not approach the world in that pharisaical spirit—I am holier than thou. We are all sinners, and if any man thinks he is without sin he deceiveth himself and the truth is not in him. What advantage, then, have we over the world? Why do our missionaries go out into the world if they are not perfect, and also have need to practise repentance? Do our missionaries need to repent? Of course they do; so do you, and

so do I, and so does every child of God. And there is no progress without repentance from sin, and without faith in God. These are matters for daily practice, these things that pertain to sanctifying and cleansing ourselves from sin.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY GHOST

Good? Who is there that is good? Remember the young man who came to the Saviour and said: "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" And the Saviour turned around to him and said: "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." That tells the story. We are weak, mortal human beings; but we have received the Gospel that has within it the power of God to cleanse us from those sins, and from that weakness. Why do we go out to the world? Because we have received that Gospel, and it is our duty to promulgate it and carry it to the farthest ends of the earth. We have advantages that the world does not have. And what are they? We have the help of God. And how does He help us? By giving us the Holy Ghost. But He does not give us the Holy Ghost until we have been through this cleansing process, until we have faith in Him, until we have repented of our sins, until our sins have been remitted by our being baptized and buried with Him by baptism unto His death, and then come forth in the likeness of His glorious resurrection. Then we are prepared to receive that marvelous gift. That is what we have received, and that is the way the Lord helps us to gain the victory over evil—by His help, the sweet companionship of His Holy Spirit; and every man and every woman who receives this Gospel has the gift of the Holy Ghost. It remains with them. Its influence is felt wherever they go; and those who come in contact with them feel in their souls that they are servants of God, or handmaidens of God, sent to them with a message of life and salvation, for they have the gift of the Holy Ghost; that is what our Elders go out with. They go out prepared, having been endowed with power from on high. They go out prepared to bestow that gift upon their fellow-men, that they may have the same advantages that the Lord in His mercy and goodness has granted to us.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

This is the Gospel. Let us appreciate it. It is the power of God unto salvation. It is working with the Latter-day Saints. Let us endeavour to make it work with all the children of God with whom we can possibly come in contact, for they are all the children of God, precious souls in His sight. He desires to save them. He loves them. He so loved them that He sent His Only Begotten Son into this world that they might not perish, but that those who belong to Him and keep His commandments, obey His Gospel, might obtain eternal life.

Now, brethren and sisters, may the Lord bless us all; may His Spirit be our constant guide and companion; may we all grow in the knowledge of truth day by day, and in good works, that we may glorify our Father in heaven, that those who see us shall glorify Him and glorify His work, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF TESTIMONY*

ELDER REY L. PRATT

OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF SEVENTY AND PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN MISSION

OH THAT my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever!

For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Many times in my life, my brethren and sisters, I have read this wonderful prediction of Job's and have marveled at it, and have been very greatly impressed by it. I think that in my study of the scriptures nothing else has so much impressed me as have testimonies. Nothing else in the history of the Church to which we belong has so impressed me as have the testimonies given by the Prophet Joseph Smith. In reading his brief account of his life, as given in the Pearl of Great Price, I turn back repeatedly and read over and over again, with added inspiration, the wonderful testimony given in so simple a way concerning his vision.

FIRM CONVICTIONS

This good man, Job, of whom I have read to-day, had been persecuted; he had been singled out and had suffered, and still he was able to testify to the world that, notwithstanding all that had come or that might come unto him, he knew that his Redeemer did in very deed live. And the Prophet Joseph Smith, strange as it might seem, inoffensive towards any human being, never having harmed his fellow-men, yet simply because of the fact that he recounted that he had seen a vision, that he knew that God lived, that he had been visited by Him and by His Son, he

*Address delivered at the closing session of the Ninety-seventh Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 6th, 1927.

was singled out for persecution. He was invited to retract, and was assured that should he do so persecution would cease. But he testified in the simple words that he knew that he had seen a light, and that in the light he had seen two Personages whom he knew to be God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ; and furthermore, he knew that God knew these things, and he dared not do other than continue to testify of this truth. And so he did testify, my brethren and sisters, to the day of his death, and sealed his testimony with his blood.

In regard to the matter of testimony, I have concluded that those testimonies which have impressed me most have not been accompanied by reasons why. They seemed to carry with them their own conviction, and I verily believe, my brethren and sisters, that they were given by the power of the Holy Ghost, and that that same Spirit witnessed to my spirit that they were true.

THE PROPHET'S STATEMENTS CORROBORATED

It is a remarkable thing, when you review the life of Joseph Smith and the great work he brought forth and the wonderful things that he testified of. We heard in Priesthood meeting a review of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, given by President Anthony W. Ivins, and of the wonderful things to which Joseph Smith attached his name—a document which set forth that there were once mighty cities upon this land, and those cities had not been discovered at that time, not even the ruins of them. He attached his name to the assertion that there had been a wonderful civilization upon this land, schooled in the arts and sciences, and he was even bold enough to affirm that the people worked in metal of iron and steel. He told of books written upon gold-leaf, and that verily the book he translated was from engravings upon a book of gold-leaf. And still Joseph Smith could not have known of the existence of anything in the world that would corroborate his statement at that time. We now find that those simple testimonies and statements are corroborated by the findings of scientific men who are delving into the ruins of the country to the south of us, particularly. At last steel instruments have been discovered on this continent, and they are attributed to the ancients who manufactured and used them.

(*Continued on page 540*)

To KNOW the mighty works of God, to comprehend His wisdom and majesty and power, to appreciate, in a degree, the wonderful working of His laws—surely all this must be a pleasing and acceptable mode of worship to the Most High, to whom ignorance can not be more grateful than knowledge.—COPERNICUS.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1927

EDITORIAL

JESUS CHRIST THE CREATOR

THE SCRIPTURES specify three Personages in the Godhead. At least two of these appear as directing participants in the work of creation; and this fact is instanced by the plurality expressed in Genesis: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Later, in the course of consultation concerning Adam's act of transgression, the Lord said: "Behold, the man is become as one of us."—Gen. 1: 26 and 3: 22.

The scriptures bear witness to the fact that God the Eternal Father operated in the work of creation through the Son, who thus became the executive through whom the will, command, or word of the Father was put into effect. It is with incisive appropriateness, therefore, that the Son, Jesus Christ, is designated by the Apostle John as the "Word."

In a revelation to Moses, relating to the process of creation, and referring specifically to the earth as one of many worlds, the Eternal Father thus spake:

> And by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth. And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.—Pearl of Great Price, Moses 1: 32, 33.

The part taken by Jesus Christ as the Firstborn of all the spirit children, a part so prominent as to justify our calling Him the Creator, is set forth in many scriptures. Thus in Hebrews we read of the Father and the Son as separate though associated Beings, the Son officiating in the work of creation under command of the Father:

> God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.—Hebrews 1: 1, 2.

Paul is even more explicit in his letter to the Colossians, wherein, speaking of Jesus Christ the Son, he says:

> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.—Col. 1: 16, 17.

And here let be repeated the testimony of John, that by the "Word" who was with God, even in the beginning, all things were made; "and without him was not any thing made that was made."—John 1: 3.

That the Christ who was to come was in reality God the Creator was revealed in plainness to the prophets on the Western Continent. Samuel the Lamanite, in preaching to the unbelieving Nephites, justified his testimony as follows:

And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning; and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name.—Book of Mormon, Helaman 14: 12.

To these citations of ancient scripture may most properly be added the personal testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ after His resurrection. In His visitation to the Nephites He thus proclaimed Himself:

Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are.—Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 9: 15.

Through revelation in the present or last dispensation the voice of Jesus Christ, the Creator of heaven and earth, has been heard anew:

Hearken, O ye people of my church, to whom the kingdom has been given; hearken ye and give ear to him who laid the foundation of the earth, who made the heavens and all the hosts thereof, and by whom all things were made which live, and move, and have a being.—Doctrine and Covenants 45: 1.

And again:

Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who created the heavens and the earth, a light which cannot be hid in darkness.—Doctrine and Covenants 14: 9.

It is evident, therefore, that before His embodiment in flesh the Being known to us as Jesus Christ received from the Father power and authority to organize the elements and frame the world whereon the spirit children of God should receive the training and experiences incident to earth-life. Verily, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.—J. E. T.

GOOD FROM ILL IN CEYLON

THE LORD has a way of turning all things to the accomplishment of His purposes. Frequently those who are engaged in spreading the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are confronted with obstacles cunningly placed in the path of progress

by the powers of evil, but invariably with the passing of time it becomes obvious that the plans of the demon-designer have not only been thwarted, but have been used to the advantage of the cause they were contrived to hinder. The following is a case in point:

Certain spurious writings that appeared in a British journal during the forepart of May were reproduced by *The Times of Ceylon*. Sister Jeannie Bleakley, who joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while visiting in England, is probably the only member on the Island of Ceylon. When she received the *Millennial Star* containing an official reply to the articles referred to, she sent a copy to the Editor of the Ceylon newspaper, accompanied by a letter which briefly stated the doctrines and explained the mission of this Church. The impartial Editor not only published Sister Bleakley's letter in full, but also gave space to a summary of the *Millennial Star* refutation of the published falsities. Consequently, even though we have never done any organized missionary work in Ceylon, and though there are no regularly appointed missionaries of the Church labouring there, the readers of the most widely circulated publication on the Island have had the fundamentals of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, restored to earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith, presented to them.

Thus God orders all activities and overrules opposing forces. The words of Gamaliel to certain Pharisees have lost none of their wisdom during the centuries intervening; "for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."—Richard L. Evans.

DEPARTURES

Among those who departed for America aboard the *Leviathan* on August 9th were Dr. and Mrs. Franklin S. Harris, Professor and Mrs. James L. Barker and family, and John R. Talmage, son of President and Mrs. James E. Talmage. All were bound for their Utah homes.

Brother Harris is President of the Brigham Young University, and is completing a world tour, which first took him from Utah to Japan to attend the Pan-Pacific Science Congress as a guest of the Japanese Government. Sister Harris joined him in France several months ago. Brother Barker is Professor of Languages at the University of Utah. He had been in Europe with his family since last October, developing new methods of teaching foreign languages, and lecturing. John Talmage had been at Durham House for thirty-three months, attending school in Liverpool. He is a priest, had laboured in the superintendency of the Liver-

pool Branch Sunday School, and had been active in other branch affairs. He received the award of his form for maintaining first place in all of his studies and activities during each of his three school years here, and is returning home to attend school there.

All of these mentioned have aided the Mission Presidents and Traveling Elders, and have preached the Gospel in many ways, whenever opportunity afforded. We wish them well in their work at home, with appreciation for their services here.—R. L. E.

FROM THE NETHERLANDS

THERE is a saying in Holland that "All roads lead to Amsterdam." This statement seems to have found confirmation again, especially with the Latter-day Saints of the Netherlands Mission, who came from almost every branch in Holland to attend the semi-annual conference of the Amsterdam District on August 14th.

It was a time of rejoicing to the children of God; for such conference gave opportunity of the saints assembling to offer thanks unto the Lord for the many blessings and privileges received.

The large meetings of Sunday were preceded by well attended public meetings on Thursday and Friday, at which various speakers testified of the goodness of God and His mercy in restoring the Gospel in these last days through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

A spirited missionary meeting was held on Saturday, at which forty-five Elders were in attendance, and gratefully received the timely instructions and encouragement given by Mission President John P. Lillywhite.

One of the greatest causes of thanksgiving was the baptism of eleven persons on that day at the chapel in Amsterdam.

The Sunday meetings were especially appreciated by those who gathered. Worship was offered in sermon, prayer and song. The people returned to their dwellings with joy in their hearts for having been privileged to hear President James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, bear witness of the divinity of this latter-day work, and solemnly aver that this is the Church of Jesus Christ and that there is no way to be saved in the kingdom of God other than by obedience to the laws of the Gospel. He also encouraged each person to study himself, and determine what kind of a companion he is for himself when alone with his thoughts; and he stated that we should learn to think uplifting thoughts, be collectors of good ideas, and prepare ourselves for the second advent of the Saviour, which is at our doors.

Another soul-stirring and testimony-strengthening part of the day's program was the successful rendition of "The Vision", a sacred cantata composed by Evan Stephens, sung by the Rotter-

dam choir under the direction of Elder Gerard Doezie. Many thrills of reverent joy animated the listeners while that musical picture of God's message to the Prophet was so impressively presented.

President John P. Lillywhite added his testimony, and bore witness of the restoration of God's plan of exaltation, and affirmed that there is no other way to enter the kingdom of God than by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel as revealed in these last days. Several of the Elders told of the blessings and privileges of being engaged in God's work, and declared that they knew that by remaining faithful to His work they would receive joy and exaltation in His kingdom.

The impressive singing of the Amsterdam choir, under the direction of Elder Washburn M. Chipman, provided inspirational music such as is characteristic of the meetings of the Latter-day Saints.

In addition to the conference meetings held in Amsterdam a special gathering was held in Rotterdam, Tuesday evening, to give the members of the Church in that vicinity opportunity of hearing words of encouragement and testimony from one of the latter-day Apostles. This was also a time of thanksgiving, and those who were in attendance rejoiced in the testimonies and counsel given by Presidents Talmage and Lillywhite.

RAYMOND K. CROMAR, Mission Office, Rotterdam

THE SPIRIT OF TESTIMONY

(*Concluded from page 535*)

The truth of these statements of the Prophet Joseph Smith has been borne in upon me, my brethren and sisters, as I have stood among those majestic ruins of Mexico, and Central and South America. I have stood there and tried to imagine that the Book of Mormon was not true, but I have prayed that I might know of a surety for myself whether it be true or not. I want to tell you that in those solemn places, in those beautiful ruins, among majestic stones larger than any I have ever seen in any other architecture of this modern day, I have had borne in upon my soul this testimony that the Book of Mormon is true, that it is a new witness for God upon the earth, and that Joseph Smith was and is a prophet of God.

TESTIMONIES ON CONDITION OF OBEDIENCE

I have been impressed during this conference by the spirit of testimony. Tears have come to my eyes more than once during this procedure, because of the spirit of testimony that has come from the speakers to me; and I stand as a witness, my brethren and sisters, that these testimonies are true.

We have spoken of the testimonies of great men in this Church.

Now, the thought is, are they alone entitled to a testimony? Are they alone entitled to know whether there has been a restoration of the Gospel or not? Are they alone entitled to know that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ? I think not. I think that the Saviour has given us ample cause to assume, by reason of His teachings, that all men, if they will comply with the conditions upon which a knowledge might come to them, may know of the truth of the doctrines that He taught, which are none other than the doctrines that Joseph Smith was an instrument in the hands of God in restoring to the people in this present day. All may know whether they be of God or whether they be of man. There are many people in the world—I know by contact with them—who would give a very great deal to be able to say that they know that this Gospel is true, that they surely know without shadow of a doubt that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ. In the face of all the confusion and conflicting ideas that there are in the world to-day, I know there are many honest-hearted people who would give a very great deal to be able to say what has been said in this conference by those who have spoken in regard to these things. But they do not know. How may they know? "If any man will do his will," says the Saviour, "he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Are there are any Latter-day Saints who are not in possession of a testimony in regard to these things? If there be such, I say unto them as I have said to these men in the world: If you will put your lives in harmony with the principles of the Gospel as they have been restored in this age, and, if you will humbly ask the Lord for a testimony concerning these things, he will bear witness unto you through the Holy Ghost, which you are entitled to have as a companion when you comply with the requirements of the Gospel, in unmistakable terms that this Gospel is true, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, that God lives, and that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world.

GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES

I admonish you, therefore, my brethren and sisters, to live humbly, to put your lives in harmony with the truth. We as teachers should possess this wonderful testimony, and we bear a wonderful responsibility in teaching it to our children, to our brethren and sisters and to our friends in the world; for all of those people are our Father's children and heirs unto salvation if they will but comply with the requirements of the law. We have a knowledge of the law and the conditions thereof, and we should teach them. There is a great responsibility resting upon a teacher, my brethren and sisters. To those who assume to teach in such a way as to destroy the faith of the youth of Zion, I tell you there is a terrible responsibility resting upon

them. There is nothing that I would rather my children have than an implicit faith in God. Learning, riches, influence in the world, or in the affairs of the world, do not compare with the great blessings of an abiding faith, and I wish to instil that, so far as God gives me power, in the minds of my own children. And, so far as He gives me power, I shall testify before the world with an endeavour to instil that witness into the hearts of my fellow-men.

I realize that the time is past. I am thankful unto the Lord for the privilege to participate in His work. I am thankful for the opportunity of bearing my testimony to you. Of a surety I know that God lives, and I know that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world. Of a surety I know that Joseph Smith was raised up to be an instrument in the hands of the Lord to restore to the world for the last time the great Gospel of salvation. I know that this Gospel is true, and, in the words of our beloved Prophet, I know that God knows that I know these things, and I dare not other than testify of them.

May the Lord add His blessings to us, and help us to live so that we may merit them and do good continuously upon the earth, that we may eventually be saved in His presence, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH*

On the Night of the Betrayal

Preparations had been made for the observance of the last Passover in which Jesus was to participate, and, indeed, for what proved to be the last meal He would eat with the Apostles prior to His death. It was Thursday evening as we count the days; though, as the Jews reckoned their days from sunset to sunset and not as with us from midnight to midnight, it was the beginning of Friday with them.

One of the Twelve, the man Judas Iscariot, whose treacherous character was well known to Jesus, had secretly plotted with the Jewish rulers to betray Jesus into their hands; and this was the night of the prearranged betrayal, though none of the company save Jesus and the traitor, Judas, knew it. For a fairly comprehensive treatment of the many tragical events of this night see *Jesus the Christ*, chapter 33; and also Matt., chapter 26; Mark, chapter 14; Luke, chapter 22; and John, chapters 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Under great strain Jesus said to the assembled Twelve: "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." See Luke 22: 15-16. It appears that in this little gathering, comprising only Jesus and the

*This article is for use in the course of study of the Relief Societies on the first meeting night in September.

Twelve, the requirements of the Law respecting the Passover were observed.

Following the paschal meal Jesus took a loaf of bread, which He sanctified by a blessing, and then, breaking it, gave a portion to each of the Apostles, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body", or, according to another account: "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." See Matt. 26: 26, and Luke 22: 19. Then, taking a cup of wine, He gave thanks, and handing it to the Apostles said: "Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."—Matt. 26: 27-29. Thus was instituted the ordinance which later came to be known as the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and by contraction simply as the Sacrament.

In the upper room, where Jesus and the Twelve assembled on this solemn occasion, the Last Supper and the Lord's Supper were separately partaken of. They were distinct, and care should be exercised against confusing the two.

While that Passover meal, now commonly called the Last Supper, was in progress, Jesus made known to the Twelve that one of them there would betray Him. To those sitting near He indicated the traitor, who was Judas Iscariot, and said: "The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."—Matt. 26: 24.

Judas went out into the night to further the plans for his Lord's betrayal. Then Jesus delivered His last discourse to the Apostles, promising them that He would send the Holy Ghost to comfort and guide them, and telling them many things soon to be realized; and this He did that they might find in the realization the fulfilment of prophecy, and not be surprised at the unprecedented development soon to take place. His prayer on this occasion, commonly called His High Priestly Prayer, is of itself proof of His divinity. Do not fail to read it—John, chapter 17. In His concluding discourse He likened Himself to the living vine, and the Apostles to branches, and proceeded to show that only withering and death could follow the separation of a branch from the vine. That sermon, recorded in John, chapter 15, and continued in the following chapter, if viewed alone from the standpoint of literary canons, cannot be regarded as other than a masterpiece.

Then the little company sang a hymn, and went out into an olive orchard on the slope of Mount Olivet, to a place called Gethsemane. Leaving eight of the Apostles near the entrance He took with Him Peter, James and John to the inner part of the garden or orchard; and then, leaving them, He went forward to

pray. So intense was His agony that as the sweat oozed from His body it was mingled with blood. To the reality of these awful sufferings the Lord has testified in these latter days. See Doctrine and Covenants 19: 16-19.

Judas, the betrayer, came at the head of a cohort of Roman soldiers, who had been detailed at the request of the Jewish rulers. To the Lord's question "Whom seek ye?" the officers answered, "Jesus of Nazareth"; and He replied, "I am he." The question and answer were repeated. See John 18: 3-8. The soldiers were terrified, and hesitated to take Him, notwithstanding Judas had already indicated Him by saluting Him with a kiss. This act caused Jesus to speak in piercing reproach: "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" See Luke 22: 47, 48.

Jesus of Nazareth was bound with cords like a common criminal, and, separated from the Apostles and all other friends, was taken away to be unrighteously condemned and crucified.

SUMMARY

1. Jesus ate the last Passover meal of His life with the Apostles. Tell the story of the preparations made for the occasion.
2. In the course of the meal Jesus revealed His knowledge of the impending betrayal. Give particulars.
3. Following the supper Jesus gave bread and wine to the Apostles. What ordinance was thus established?
4. Jesus delivered His last discourse to the Apostles. State the principal matters treated by Him in this inspired and impressive address.
5. He passed through indescribable agony in Gethsemane. Cite scriptural records from the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants. What proof that He was more than mortal man do you find in this?
6. He was betrayed by one of the Twelve. Relate the circumstances.

DEATH

FITTON—Reggie Fitton, five-year old son of Brother and Sister Arthur Fitton of the Rochdale Branch, Manchester District, passed away on August 9th. Funeral services were held under the direction of President Kenneth A. Nielson at the Rochdale Cemetery Chapel on August 13th. President Nielson and Elder F. Donald Merrill were the speakers; Elder Rondo H. Robinson dedicated the grave.

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